

## Gunners named Soldier and NCO of the Quarter

**By Alexandra Williams**

*284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office*

Pfc. Jeremy R. Gleisinger and Sgt. John W. Ahlers competed for Division Artillery Soldier and NCO of the Quarter respectively. Gleisinger earned the division bragging rights while Ahlers went home as battalion NCO of the Quarter.

Both Soldiers underwent a PT test, a four-mile road march, weapons qualification, an inspection of military knowledge and other tasks.

“It’s kind of intimidating because you have all these high-ranking NCOs asking you all these questions knowing that for some of them you don’t know the answer. And if you don’t get it right, it can throw you off. I think they want to see how you handle the situation,” said Gleisinger, a 13B canon crew member with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, who joined the Army in 2004.

“Most intimidating was that my command sergeant major was on the board, because had I messed up I could have made up an excuse, but now I knew that he would see it and know exactly where and what I messed up,” he said.

Ahlers, a fire support NCO for Company C, 1-36th Infantry Regiment, had a shot at the Division Artillery NCO of the Quarter honor but after a

tiebreaker made a mistake and lost by a few points and was nominated battalion NCO of the Quarter.

“The competition is very hard no matter how much you prepare yourself. It was challenging, but at the same time I was very confident, and I think I was probably better prepared than some other competitors,” Ahlers said. “I had less time to study but over the time I acquired much knowledge.

“The reason why I lost is that I made a real stupid mistake,” he said. “I realized that I messed up, but I never thought it would cost me that many points. I forgot to swing my arms when I was marching.”

Ahlers plans to try for the competition again and said he is confident next time he will not fail. “I will take on from what I learned here. I don’t let such things get me down, and I will also enter the NCO of the Year competition,” said Ahlers who joined the Army five years ago.

Ahlers and Gleisinger studied together for the competition. “For Sgt. Ahlers it was more a refresher,” said Gleisinger. “It helped me prepare myself. We only had a week to study and we got most out of this week.”



**Photo by Alexandra Williams**

**Sgt. John W. Ahler (left) and Pfc. Jeremy R. Gleisinger of Battery B, 2-3rd Field Artillery.**

“The deployments to Kosovo and Iraq helped me a lot, but I also like to learn something every day. Any way I can learn I will learn. If not, the day is not complete,” Ahlers said.

Both Soldiers had the highest points in PT and weapons qualification, they said.

The next goal for both Soldiers is to enter the 1st Armored Division’s Soldier and NCO of the Quarter competition.



## Butzbach school caters to community need

### More students join breakfast program

By Alexandra Williams  
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Butzbach Elementary School helps its students get a better start for the day by serving breakfast.

The idea to serve breakfast started about a year ago when Steve Markway, the school's guidance counselor, was the co-chair of the School Advisory Committee. "Too many kids came to school without having breakfast in the morning and too many were being sent to the nurse's office with stomach complaints only to find out that they hadn't had breakfast," Markway said.

"After some research I found out that the same people who provide the free and reduced school lunch provide a free and reduced school breakfast," he said.

Markway discussed the idea of serving breakfast with school principal Sue Morin and 284th Base Support Battalion commander Lt. Col. Bart Shreve who both supported the idea. After coordination with Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the school's SAC the program evolved.

The program started with 50 students at the beginning of the school year and has grown to about 75 children every morning.

Nutritionists say that it is essential to begin the day with a healthy, balanced and nutritious meal to have more energy for the day and to improve learn-

ing.

To meet the standards for a balanced meal the school's menu changes daily and includes yoghurt, fruits, juices, milk and chocolate milk, cereal and scrambled eggs. The cost is \$1.25 for children and \$1.45 for adults. Free coffee is provided to the parents by the school.

"We've had different children's parents eating breakfast with their kids every day since day one. Given last year's deployment it has really been great seeing the smiling faces of the kids when they bring their dad for breakfast," said Markway.

Food service worker Beatrix Kollmann said she is proud her school now serves breakfast to the students. "I think the parents and children appreciate this. After the summer break we only had a few children, but it's becoming more and more, and we have the same customers every morning," she said. "As far as I know there are only a few schools offering breakfast."

Kelly Zickafoose, another food service worker, said as a parent she appreciates the program. "I used to come to breakfast with my two sons before I started working here. At home they always eat so slowly and there is always something else they have to do before they get ready to eat. When you feed them at the school you get them out of the door quicker," said Zickafoose.

Sixth-grader Corey Zickafoose said he enjoys the school breakfast because it tastes good. "At home I always have to eat cereal, and here I get to eat different things. Also I like to talk to friends during breakfast," he said.

"The idea to serve breakfast at the school is pretty good. The food they serve covers all nutrition basics like starch and fruit juices," said Spc. Daren Armstrong of Friedberg's Headquar-



Photo by Alexandra Williams

**Spc. Daren Armstrong (center) and his children Hadassah and Zion enjoy breakfast and the company of friends at the school.**

ters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade. Armstrong accompanies his children Zion, a second-grader and Hadassah who attend Sure Start to enjoy the breakfast together. "Usually my wife comes with them, but I am on leave and since I normally have no time to spend the morning with them, starting the day with them is great. The price for the meal is fair," he said.

For Armstrong another benefit of school breakfast is the motivation to eat. "It's a lot easier to get my kids to eat," he said. "They are motivated by the movie they can watch but also by eating with their friends."

Fifth-grader Chance Thompson said he enjoys the school breakfast. "At school they offer a larger variety and every day we get something different,"

Madeline Bishop, a first-grade student, said she also enjoys the company of friends for breakfast. "I get to watch TV while I eat. I cannot do this at home because the TV is across the table."

"The breakfast is nutritious, a bit too nutritious according to some of our kids who would occasionally like biscuits and gravy with some sausage and bacon," Markway said. "The kids really like Ms. Bea's homemade pancakes usually served with scrambled eggs, milk and juice."

"Parents whose children attend told me that they love the program,"

Markway added. "With an increasing number of two-income households a morning breakfast program has really helped these families. From an educational viewpoint I believe that the children who eat at school are brighter, more awake, better prepared to learn and have fewer behavioral difficulties. I believe that I am not the only person who does not like to feel rushed in the morning but prefers to ease into the morning with a cup of coffee and a newspaper. We have children who are no different. They don't need coffee and a newspaper, but they do need to eat something and ease into the morning to be happier and be more productive. The breakfast program allows them to do that."

School principal Sue Morin has watched the progress of the program with enthusiasm. "We have a decent percentage of kids. Currently we have 280 students enrolled at the school and every day 50-70 kids come earlier to eat breakfast. I think the program is very valuable because it teaches the children good eating habits, plus they like to eat with their friends. A nutritious breakfast helps them get a good start in school, and they won't be as worn out as if they have not eaten anything before coming to school," said Morin.

For more information or to enroll your child in the program call civ (06033) 74520.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

**Every morning between 50 to 70 students line up for school breakfast in Butzbach. Children are often accompanied by parents.**



## Community spotlights

### AER contributions

Donations for this year's Army Emergency Relief campaign will be accepted through May 15. Anyone wanting to support AER, a program that provides active duty Soldiers and their families with emergency assistance, may contribute by cash, check or payroll deduction. To pick up a form see Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Jones of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment in Building 115, Room 206 on the Giessen Depot.

### Free classes and more

The Bad Nauheim Outreach Center is closed until further notice. The Butzbach Outreach Center hosts an **Army Family Team Building** class April 18-20 from 6-8 p.m. An **Anger Management** class will be held April 25 from 10-11:30 a.m. **Parent and Me Playtime** is held every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon and **Story Time** is scheduled for April 20 from 1-2:30 p.m. A **Federal Resume** class is scheduled for April 27 from 10 a.m. to noon. A **Coupon Social** is planned for April 29 from 1-4 p.m. and a **Checkbook Management** class takes place April 29 from 10 a.m. to noon. **Stress Management** classes are being held every first Tuesday of the month from 10-11:30 a.m. Giessen Army Community Service hosts **Computer Skills and Basic Internet** every Tuesday from 2-4:30 p.m. Registration is required. A **Savings and Investment** class is scheduled for April 19. The next **Soup's On** takes place April 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A **Checkbook Management** class will be held April 20 from 10 a.m. to noon. **Parent and Me Playtime** takes place every Friday from 10 a.m. to noon Building 12 on the Giessen Depot. Friedberg ACS offers **Stress**

**Management** training every second Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. and an **Anger Management** class every third Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. For details call Giessen ACS at mil 343-7618, Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3465 or Butzbach ACS at civ (06033) 925 329.

### Play location changed

The last performances of the Keller Theater production "Aspects of Love" will be held April 14-16 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Woodland Club adjacent from the Giessen Depot. For more information call mil 343-6515 or go to <http://hometown.aol.de/kellertheatre>.

### Trip to Six Flags

Giessen Outdoor Recreation hosts a trip to Six Flags Holland and Amsterdam April 23-24. The cost is \$159 for adults, \$99 for children age 4-11 and \$29 for children up to 3. For details call mil 343-8202.

### Sports schedule

A **combat tactics class** instructed by grandmaster Lo Man Kam takes place April 17 from 1-6 p.m. at Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center. A **pre-season unit level softball tournament** is scheduled for April 19-22. The tournament is free to all unit level teams. Team trophies go to first, second and third place and individual trophies to first and second place. For details call Miller Hall at mil 343-7201 or the Friedberg Fitness Center at mil 324-3155.

### Wellness fair

The 284th Base Support Battalion Sports Office hosts a Health and Wellness Fair May 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Alpine Club on the Giessen

Depot. Get your cholesterol checked, learn more about proper nutrition and gain knowledge about health and wellness issues. Everyone is invited and participation is for free. For details call mil 343-7201.

### 4H Club classes

Friedberg School Age Services hosts a variety of classes beginning in May through the end of the school year.

**Drama class** meets every Monday and Wednesday. The cost is \$32. **Drawing class** meets on Tuesday. The cost is \$11.50. The **sports class** is held every Thursday and costs \$16. The **costume design and sewing group** meets Friday and the cost is 14. All classes are from 3-4:30 p.m. For more information call Sha'

Campbell at the Friedberg Child Development Center at mil 324-3137 or the Bad Nauheim SAS at civ (06032) 803 803.

### Auditions for children's theater

The Butzbach Elementary School hosts auditions for the Missoula Children's Theater play "Wiz of the West" May 16 from 3:30-5:30 p.m., and rehearsals take place May 17-21 from 3:30-5:30 and from 6-8 p.m. at the Butzbach Elementary School. Students of the Giessen, Butzbach and Bad Nauheim elementary schools as well as the Giessen Middle and High School are welcome. For details call David Turner at civ (0641) 402-6515 or Sue Morin at civ (06033) 74520.

### Auto skills hours

Beginning May 1 the Friedberg Auto Skills Center opens Wednesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is closed Monday, Tuesday and on federal holidays. For details call mil 324-3218. The Giessen Auto Skills Centers opens Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is closed Wednesday, Thursday and on federal holidays. For more information call mil 343-7050.

### ACAP update

The Army Career and Alumni Program in Giessen hosts a job search workshop April 19-20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Education Center located in Building 7, Room 312 on the Giessen Depot. The two-day class teaches Soldiers fundamentals of the civilian job search process such as job

search strategies, networking, resume and cover letter writing. ACAP will be closed April 21 for staff training. For details call Claire Sowinski at mil 343-9332.

### Newcomers welcome

Friedberg Army Community Service hosts a Newcomers Orientation and Welcome workshop April 19-20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free workshop provides participants with the tools to get out and about and to make this the best tour and is open to anyone interested not only newcomers. Child care vouchers are available upon advance registration. To register call Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3465 or stop by the office.

### Mom 2 Mom

The Mom 2 Mom Breastfeeding Peer Support Program holds its next meeting April 27 at 3 p.m. in the Bad Nauheim Community Center on the second floor. The program is open to all expecting, new and experienced mothers interested in breastfeeding support. Nurslings are always welcome. For more information call Tammy Castro-Leduc at mil 343-1550.

### FRG training

Family Readiness Group training takes place April 19, 26 and May 3 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Bad Nauheim Outreach Center (upstairs from the Shoppette). This is the full training that normally takes place during the day but is now broken down into three evening classes to accommodate those who cannot attend classes during the day. For details Friedberg Army Community Service at mil 324-3465.

### Free bowling for children

The Ironsides Lanes and Outback Lounge bowling center on the Giessen Depot celebrates the Month of the Military Child throughout April. Parents can bring their children Monday to Friday from noon to 8 p.m. and enjoy complimentary bowling for their young ones. For more information call mil 343-7702/6172.

### Officer Candidate School

The 284th Base Support Battalion hosts an Officer Candidate School board May 20 starting at 9 a.m. in the BSB conference room in Building 115 on the Giessen Depot. Soldiers wishing to appear before the board must submit their completed OCS packets no later than May 6 to the 284th BSB Human Support Services. Call Martina Hulse at mil 343-8995 for more information or fax to mil 343-7838.

## BSB housing mayors

The 284th BSB will be holding a Mayoral Oath of Office ceremony April 7 p.m. at the Woodland Center in Giessen. Everyone is invited.

Volunteer mayors help promote cooperation among residents, develop pride in housing areas, disseminate information and develop programs that benefit all residents. Some of the programs the mayors are starting include area beautification, Yard of the Month and community co-ed baseball teams.

There are mayors and deputy mayors for each of the five housing areas:

Marshall Housing — Mayor Maritza Ramirez, Deputy Mayor Kisha Jennings; Alvin York Housing — Mayor Kathryn Walker, Deputy Mayor Chasa Roberts; Dulles Housing — Mayor Laura Knarr, Deputy Mayor Michelle Donnell; McArthur Housing — Mayor Erika Atchinson, Deputy Mayor Faith Bomar and Roman Way Housing — Mayor Tamara Smith, Deputy Mayor Micol Clissold. For more information contact Joyce Williams at mil 343-6038 or civ (0641) 402-6038.

## Volunteers keep community running

**By Alexandra Williams**  
284th Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Volunteers have become an indispensable part of the workforce on military installations. The 284th Base Support Battalion hosts a Volunteer Recognition ceremony April 21 at 6 p.m. in the Alpine Club on the Giessen Depot to recognize their efforts.

"Volunteers are the backbone of the Army family. Family Readiness Groups solely exist due to volunteers," said Kelly Kreis, 284th BSB Army Volunteer Corps coordinator.

"Most programs for kids rely on volunteers — sports coaches, Parent Teacher Organizations, Girl and Boy Scouts to name a few," said

Kreis. "With tight budgets, volunteers fill a gap to provide more service and support to our families that might not be there otherwise."

Volunteers run programs such as FRGs, the Hearts and Hands Community Club, help out in the schools, at the Arts and Crafts centers, health and dental clinics, tax offices, community mail rooms and chapels. They also help out as administrative assistants all over the BSB, said Kreis.

"We don't have all the hours in at the moment but I would estimate that they worked over 73,000 volunteer hours this year," she said.

Reasons for volunteering vary, she said.

"Most people volunteer to

improve the quality of life for family members, themselves or the community. Others volunteer to keep a resume current or to gain new job experience. Whatever the reason, volunteering is great," Kreis said.

"We have 75 registered volunteers for our school," said Christina Hayes, PTSA president for Giessen Elementary School.

"They help in the classrooms, work on special projects and in the nurse's office; they hold PTSA positions; they chair events like Winter Wonderland, the Spelling Bee contest," she said.

Volunteers lend a helping hand to teachers and do everything from laminating and making copies to helping out in kindergarten. They also help with science experiments during science lessons.

"If we didn't have all these volunteers a lot would not happen in the school like the science fair, Red Ribbon Week, school pictures, teacher's appreciation week, popcorn days, boxtops fundraising and much more," Hayes said.

"Volunteers are looking for experience and they are willing to work even though they are not getting paid," said William Parent, 284th BSB assistant civilian misconduct action authority officer.

"They do the same work as paid employees. My volunteer does all the admin work and keeps my appointments. Without her help I would have to do a lot of overtime which would be costly to the government," he said.

Parent said volunteering often increases the chances of finding a paid job.

"A good worker gets a good recommendation from his or her supervisor, and people can see or they know how somebody functions," he said.

"Investing time to properly train a volunteer improves the function of my office," Parent said.

Jacqueline Lopez volunteers as an administrative assistant in Parent's office.

"I was working as a parale-



Photo by Alexandra Williams

**School volunteers Jazmin Pachero (left) and Mitzi Laguna prepare props for a school play at Giessen Elementary School.**

gal before we came to Giessen. It's hard to find the same job on a military installation," Lopez said. "I decided to volunteer because I wanted to gain some experience, and I know it's easier to find a paid job when you volunteer."

Lopez will stop volunteering to attend school before her first baby is born in a couple of months.

"I enjoyed volunteering and it improved my English," she said.

Tracy Tien volunteers in her FRG, at Butzbach Elementary School and the Giessen Middle and High School where both of her daughters attend school.

### 'A better place'

"I want to make this a better place for Soldiers and their families. We've been in the Army 17 years now, and I know how it is when you come to a new place and you don't know anybody, you don't know where to find things. I am glad when I can help new families in the community," said Tien. "I volunteer at the school because I am a teacher, and I know how much work that is. When I go to the school and make photocopies for the teacher, he or she can concentrate on teach-

ing the really important things.

"Volunteering is also a great opportunity to meet new people and to make new friends," she said. "All my friends that I have here I met through volunteering," said Tien.

As volunteer coordinator Kreis said she knows about the achievements of the volunteers.

"The dedication our volunteers have is what impresses me most. We have some who volunteered through the 15-month deployment and kept doing so after their Soldier returned," she said. "Others are new and are volunteering now and plan to stay for the upcoming deployment and keep volunteering. Our community would suffer greatly without the extraordinary volunteers. No matter what gets thrown at them they just keep on going. I am very proud to be among such a great group of survivors," said Kreis.

If you are interested in volunteering contact the Army Volunteer Coordinator at mil 324-3713 or civ (06033) 81-3713. Or stop by her office at ACS on Ray Barracks in Friedberg.

"Special experience is not needed. All you need is a desire to make the community a better place," Kreis said.



# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## MWR Job Fair to be held April 15

### Wide range of job prospects on tap

By Carolyn Dewey and  
Lisa Crews  
*Special to the Herald Union*

The Hanau military community provides a wealth of family friendly recreational activities and support services.

However they are critically understaffed. There is a great demand for family members seeking employment.

Employment opportunities are available at the Child Development Center, Kids Korner, The International Club, The Bowling Center, Pioneer Inn and other places throughout the community.

Karen Murray, assistant manager of the Hessen Bowl, said there are several recreation aid positions available for individuals interested in working in a fun environment.

The Kids Korner at the Wolfgang Shopping Center, which will be celebrating its first anniversary in June, also seeks recreation aids to fill both part-time and full-time positions. Individuals who enjoy working with children are needed.

Mark Siple, I-Club manager, said working at the club is a great way to earn extra money.



Photo by Marie DeLopez

Carolyn Dewey, Army Community Service Employment Readiness manager, talks to Army Lodging employee Ron Brooker about job satisfaction.

He prefers to hire experienced workers, but is willing to train bartenders and bar assistants.

Unfortunately many job seekers disqualify themselves by deciding they do not have sufficient skills to perform a particular job before even submitting an application. Officials advise candidates to go through the process — they may indeed be qualified. Some managers are also willing to train individuals with

potential, as is the case with the I-Club.

People who prefer to work in a particular field or specific job lacking the necessary skills can get help at Hanau Army Community Service. The Employment Readiness manager can help people identify their marketable skills and create a dynamic resume to land that perfect job.

Volunteering is also an option to obtain or refine job skills. The Army

Volunteer Corps coordinator can work with a person to find the ideal placement based on interests and talents.

Many family members working in the community have expressed their fulfillment and satisfaction with being a part of the work force.

Ron Brooker, employed as the front desk clerk at Pioneer Lodging for about a year, said he's pleased to be providing a valuable service to the Hanau community. "This is a wonderful place to work. I would encourage anyone to join our team," he said.

Jim Long, hotel manager, said he shares Brooker's viewpoint. "We are all a family here." Army Lodging offers incentives and educational programs for those who wish to advance their careers in the hotel industry, he added.

Army Community Service hosts an MWR Job Fair April 15 at the Community Activity Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This is an opportunity to learn about current and projected vacancies, complete applications and be granted interviews.

For assistance with preparing resumes, completing applications and ongoing job search guidance visit the Employment Readiness Manager at ACS in Building 19 on Pioneer Kaserne.



Photos by Sgt. Kristopher Joseph

### Training together in Israel

Spc. Keillen Johnson (left) and Pfc. Phillip Thiessen (right) of Hanau's 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, stand guard on an Israeli military base with Pvts. Dima Flyshman and Max Vizcko of the Israeli Defense Force. Photo left: Pvt. 2 Steven Freudenberg sounds a manual alarm during a mock chemical missile attack on the military base in Israel. Members of the 5-7th ADA were in Israel for Juniper Cobra 05, a biennial exercise that brings U.S. and Israeli air defense units together to test their combined capabilities.



# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Spent shell casings litter a vehicle during convoy live-fire training in Grafenwöhr. Photo right: Sgt. 1st Class Jim Horne checks weapons after firing during a mock maintenance halt.



## Engineers sharpen live-fire convoy skills

**Story and photos by Dennis Johnson**  
*130th Engineer Brigade Public Affairs Office*

The weather was more reminiscent of Afghanistan than Iraq as 130th Engineer Brigade Soldiers fought their way through convoy live-fire exercises at the Grafenwöhr Training Center in March.

To give their Soldiers the experience of firing from a convoy about 70 members of the 130th Engineer Brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company traveled over the frozen fields at the Grafenwöhr Training Center to practice with live ammunition during V Corps' Victory Focus.

The convoy live-fire training lane at Grafenwöhr is a requirement for all units returning to Iraq and gives Soldiers an opportunity to fire live rounds from a convoy in anticipation of one of the most common and dangerous duties in Iraq — convoying.

To go through the convoy live-fire training lane, the Soldiers first formed a convoy of about five vehicles consisting of High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles and heavy trucks. The convoy then stopped at the ammunition depot at the entrance to the range, where each Soldier received live ammunition, mounted their vehicles and assured their weapons were on "safe." Muzzle awareness and overall weapons safety was the priority throughout the exercise.

### First time for some Soldiers

Some Soldiers fired the standard infantry weapon, the M-16(A2), while others fired Squad Automatic Weapons (M249). For some, this was the first time they'd fired their weapons from moving vehicles.

On their first iteration on the convoy lane the Soldiers carried just a few live rounds, only five for each M-16. On the second go-around, they carried a full magazine. And their third trip through the convoy lane was completed at night under even colder temperatures.

As the convoy wound its way onto the range, before arriving in the target area, the order was passed from truck to truck, "lock and load." When

the green plastic targets, shaped as enemy combatants and vehicles, popped up from the snowy fields the Soldiers cut them down with their fire. At night chemical lights were used to mark targets. "All Iraqi insurgents wear chem' lites," joked one Soldier.

About halfway through the lane, the convoy stopped to stage a mock maintenance halt. While some Soldiers took up a defensive perimeter, others performed the mock maintenance. The Soldiers fired their weapons from ground positions during the halt and then mounted up and rolled on.

At the end of the lane, when all the ammunition was expended, the Soldiers climbed down and stood in a long line down one side of the convoy to clear their weapons under the watchful eye of NCOs and officers.

The convoy exercise was observed and evaluated by the training area staff from a tower at the edge of the range. And on this particular day, Capt. Therese Kelley, the 94th Engineer Battalion rear detachment commander, was enlisted to help. "We're unit evaluators, watching how they lead their convoy," said Kelley.

Kelley was the unit movement officer and battle captain for the 94th as they deployed to Kuwait and then Iraq in January, but she was recently recalled to lead the rear detachment.

The 94th Engineer Battalion is currently based at Camp Marez in Mosul, Iraq, where they are performing a variety of construction jobs, many for base security. The battalion has also assisted in many Iraqi reconstruction projects in downtown Mosul.

As convoys have become such a prominent target for anti-coalition insurgents in Iraq, the Army's training has adapted to the situation. Most of the training lanes at Grafenwöhr have a convoy aspect to them. In addition to the convoy live-fire lane, there's a training lane where convoys come under attack from opposition forces firing blanks and a night-convoy training lane that gives drivers experience driving with night-vision goggles.

Riding in the back of the trucks, with the daytime temperatures hovering around -5 C., Soldiers tried to keep their hands warm while waiting for their chance

to knock down targets. A few deer grazed along the edge of a thin wood, oblivious to the convoy of fire power rolling by. (No deer were near the actual firing area)

After the convoy the Soldiers gathered in the dining facility for an "after action" report. Everyone was encouraged to speak up and offer any criticism or advice on how the exercise went.

"I think everyone did a good job keeping safety in mind," said Capt. Michele Riniker, former 130th Engineer Brigade maintenance officer.

### 'Did a great job'

"There were a few problems with communications, but you made it work with hand signals. I could tell you were communicating," said Kelley. "Overall I think you all did a great job."

Before rolling out on the exercise it was discovered there weren't enough radios for everyone, so the convoy leader, 1st Lt. Amber Schleuning, 130th Engineer Brigade maintenance officer, did some quick thinking and came up with a few easy light and hand signals.

"It's Murphy's Law in action," said Schleuning. "But we came up with some hand signals, made sure everyone was clear on them and then executed. We'll do the same tonight, but just add the chemical lights."

The 130th were good hosts and brought a few Soldiers from other units along for the ride. Spc. Michael Easterbrook from the 330th Rear Operations Center in Kaiserslautern is headed for Afghanistan and joined the 130th to complete his training before deploying.

"I thought this unit did pretty good," said Easterbrook. The NCOs on our truck had really good command and control. It's really important. On patrol you need to have good control over your Soldiers. That shows good leaderships qualities.

When asked about the cold weather, Easterbrook said, "Weather affects all you do, every aspect from weapons and vehicles to morale. But the snow doesn't bother me, it's just another season."



# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## Community notes . . . Community notes

### ACS classes

Army Community Service offers a **checkbook management** class April 19 at 9 a.m. Learn more about the **Thrift Savings Plan** April 26 at 9 a.m. Both classes are held in Building 19 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call mil 322-8963 or civ (06181) 88-8963.

### VAT Office moves

The Value Added Tax Relief Office is now colocated with the American Sampler Arts and Crafts in Building 545 at the Wolfgang Shopping Center. The new hours of operation are Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call mil 322-8082 or civ (06181) 88-8082.

### Retiree Council/VFW

Assistance for all veterans (active, retired, prior service and their families) is available in Building 25 on Pioneer Kaserne, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (or longer if required). Contact John E. Raleigh, Retiree Council president and VFW Quartermaster Post 7880 at mil 322-8612 or civ (06181) 88-8612.

### DOL moves

The Directorate of Logistics has moved to Building 27 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call mil 322-1540 or 8340.

### Bazaar volunteers

Volunteers are needed to make the Fall Bazaar, scheduled for Sept. 23-25, a success. All volunteers will have the opportunity to shop two hours before the grand opening and receive a raffle ticket for every two hours of volunteer time (starting Thursday before the bazaar). Call Bianca Moton at mil 322-8725, civ (06181) 88-8725, (0160) 910-52378 or email [bianca.moton@us.army.mil](mailto:bianca.moton@us.army.mil).

### FRG/Rear D training

The Army Community Service Deployment and Mobilization Program offers Family Readiness Group leader training May 26-27, June 28-29 and July 26-27 and Rear Detachment training April 14,

June 9, July 14, Aug. 18 and Sept. 15. Classes are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Building 19 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call Amy Ellin-Cuebes at mil 322-8766 for more information.

### Grand opening of Chapel Youth Center

The new Chapel Youth Activity Center, "The Lighthouse," in Building 28 on Pioneer Kaserne will have its grand opening April 22 at noon featuring pizza, cake, finger foods and punch.

### Parenting class

A parenting class is held at the Wolfgang Outreach Center at the Wolfgang Shopping Center from 6-7:30 p.m. every first Tuesday of the month. The topics include "discipline without anger," "child developmental ages and stages" and "stress reduction for both parents and children." To sign up call Army Community Service at mil 322-8963 or civ (06181) 88-8963.

### WIC-O now available for DoDDS personnel

DoDDS teachers and support personnel may now be eligible to participate in the Women, Infants, and Children-Overseas program. WIC-O offers nutrition education, supplemental foods, health referrals and breastfeeding support. The program is designed for pregnant, post-partum and breastfeeding women as well as for infants and children up to 5 years of age. Call the Hanau WIC-O Office at mil 322-9636 or civ (06181) 88-9636 for details on eligibility.

### Islamic service and studies

A Jummah service will be held Fridays at 1 p.m. and an Islamic Studies class Fridays at 7 p.m. at Fliegerhorst Chapel on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. Call the Chaplain's Office at mil 322-9609/1570 or civ (06181) 88-9609/1570 for details.

### Coupon socials in Büdingen

Army Community Service holds coupon socials every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon at the

Büdingen ACS, Building 207 on Armstrong Barracks. Call mil 321-4786 or civ (06042) 80-786.

### AWANA bowling and pizza party

The AWANA children's club will have a bowling and pizza party at the Hessen Bowl at the Wolfgang Shopping Center April 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be free pizza and bowling for all AWANA cubbies, sparkies, T&Ts and their friends. Call Chaplain Tran at mil 322-7013 or civ (06181) 88-7013 for information.

### ACS ice cream social

In honor of Military Spouse Appreciation Day Army Community Service invites everybody to an ice cream social May 6 from 1-3 p.m. at Building 19 on Pioneer Kaserne in Hanau or Building 2207 on Armstrong Barracks in Büdingen.

### USO highlights

USO has received 100 tickets for the **Holiday Park** in Hassloch for a discount price of €19 per person (regular fee is €22). Furthermore, USO has discount football tickets (\$10) for the **Frankfurt Galaxy** home game on April 23 at 7 p.m. Stop by the USO, Building 19 on Pioneer Kaserne to purchase a ticket. USO co-sponsors the first **Miss Hanau 2005 Beauty Pageant**. The preparatory course will start

May 4 and will be held once a week on Wednesday at the Five Pfennig Playhouse, Building 405 on Old Argonner Kaserne from 5:30-7 p.m. The enrollment for the pageant and program is ongoing at the USO, Building 19 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call mil 322-8725, civ (06181) 88-8725.

### ACAP workshops

ACAP conducts a pre-separation briefing and job assistance workshop April 26-27 in Building 11, Room 302 on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne. Public law requires the attendance of a pre-separation briefing no later than 90 days before separation date. Soldiers are encouraged to begin as early as one year before ETS or two years before retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend as well. Sessions fill up quickly — call mil 322-8356 or civ (06181) 88-8356 to reserve your slot.

### Interactive play group

New Parent Support hosts a play group every Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at the Kid's Korner at the Wolfgang Shopping Center. Join an interactive play group that helps improve your child's social, cognitive and motor skills. The play group also teaches parents and children developmentally appropriate play. Call Donna Higgins, ACS New Parent Support at mil 322-9664 or civ (06181) 88-9664 for details.

### Play day with mommies

Büdingen Army Community Service hosts a "play day with mommies" every Monday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Building 2207 on Armstrong Barracks. This play group is for babies six months and older and pre-school kids. Call mil 321-4786 or civ (06042) 80-786 to sign up.

### Hanau Boy Scouts

Troop 49 meets Thursdays from 7-8:30 p.m. at Building 40 on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne. Boys from sixth grade through high school are welcome. Call Diana Ruzicka at civ (06181) 939-8352 for details.

### AFTB classes

AFTB offers Level I training April 28-29, Level II May 10-12, Level III May 16-18 and Instructor Training June 7-9 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Level II Soldier Track will be offered April 25-29, Level III Soldier Track from May 16-20 (five promotion points per track). The Soldier track classes are held from 6-9:15 p.m. Call mil 322-5308 or civ (06181) 88-5308 to sign up and for child care if needed. Child care must be reserved one week before each level. Classes take place in the Building 514 conference room at the Wolfgang Shopping Center. AFTB is also looking for instructors or master trainers.

### Veterans Affairs briefings

A Veterans Affairs briefing will be held April 26 from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Education Center, Building 11, Room 302 on Pioneer Kaserne. All veterans and retirees are welcome. Contact ACAP at mil 322-8356 or civ (06181) 88-8356.

### Give to AER

The 2005 Army Emergency Relief campaign "One Nation, One Army, One Organization" runs through May 15. Members of the Hanau community can help their own by donating. Call mil 322-8097 or civ (06181) 88-8097.



Photo by Karl Weisel

**Veterans Affairs representative Mike Byrne conducts a VA benefits briefing at Hanau ACAP. An upcoming briefing is scheduled for April 26. See column right for details.**



## Honoring women's personal courage

**From Amelia Earhart to Iraqi Freedom veterans**

**Story and photos  
by Karl Weisel**

**104th Area Support Group Public Affairs  
Office**

People needn't look far to find a wealth of examples of personal courage by women today and in the past.

"In studying about women's history we have learned that the common woman — our mothers, aunts, teachers and neighbors are at the very core of women's history. . . . Through determination, persuasion, hard work and personal sacrifices in deeds these are the women who have changed America," said Maj. Donna Fanning, S-3 planner for the 16th Corps Support Group.

Fanning and Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, commander of the 3rd Corps Support Command and the first woman to graduate from West Point and make general, discussed this year's Women's History Month theme of "Women Change America" during a luncheon at the Community Activity Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne March 28.

"As a nation we have been inspired by bold acts," said Fanning, describing the many women who contributed to the "vitality, richness and diversity of American life."

From past examples of personal courage demonstrated by role models such as civil rights advocate Rosa Parks, human rights advocate Eleanor Roosevelt, aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart and Holocaust survivor Corrie ten Boom to women on the front lines of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, people can find countless cases of women who have stood up for what's right at great personal risk.

"I'm proud to be a Soldier in the United States Army — the best army in the world. . . . For me it is an honor to serve in the military, and each day I commit myself to having the personal courage for doing what is right and doing my best to lead America's sons and daughters," said Halstead.

Personal courage is the common bond that unites people who have made and are making a positive difference in the world, said Halstead. "Please do not ignore your instinct for doing what is right," she said. "We must all get out of our comfort zone, show personal courage and make a difference."

Standing up for what's right means doing so even though one may have no idea how things will turn out in the end. Citing Rosa Park's decision to refuse to



**Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, commander of the 3rd Corps Support Command and first female West Point graduate to make general, describes women through history who have inspired her with their personal courage.**

give up her seat on a bus which ultimately "started a movement that would bring an end to the tradition of legal segregation across the south and the entire nation," Halstead said, "I doubt that Rosa Parks ever suspected that her gesture would turn a page in history and the history of America's race relations. . . . How many of us would have had the intestinal fortitude, the courage to act in the same way she did?"

Like Rosa Parks, Eleanor Roosevelt demonstrated personal courage as a U.S. representative to the United Nations General Assembly where she helped author the U.N.'s universal declaration of human rights, said Halstead. "This document outlines the basic human rights every person deserves regardless of gender, religion or birthplace.

"I believe the United States and especially the U.S. Army have done a major part to continue Eleanor Roosevelt's legacy," said Halstead. "In the War on Terrorism one of the most significant end products of our efforts

in Afghanistan and Iraq is the establishment of the democratic process, and one could argue, the subsequent enforcement of women's rights in these countries."

Spiritual courage also plays a role in doing what's right, said Halstead, describing Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch woman who saw her entire family die in Nazi concentration camps after helping Jews, refugees and members of the Dutch underground avoid capture by the Nazis during the occupation of the Netherlands in World War II. "She and her whole family risked their lives to stand up to one of the most evil regimes in world history," said Halstead. Only Corrie survived — being released from Ravensbruck concentration camp on a technicality only days before other women of her age were murdered in the camp.

"Corrie ten Boom epitomizes for me spiritual courage," Halstead said. "Her life, her actions encouraged me to 'uparmor' myself with my faith and the Army values that are etched on the dog

tags that I drape over my head each and every day — the values that every Soldier in this room can have etched in their hearts that we must live by — loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, personal courage."

"As an Army at war we see examples of incredible personal courage everyday," she said. That includes the 23,000 women who have served in the Central Command area of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq — 35 of whom have made the ultimate sacrifice.

"It is hard to find an environment that demands more personal courage than being in combat or in an area where combat is likely. These women joined for a variety of reasons with the overwhelming reason . . . to make a difference in their own lives and in the lives of others," Halstead said, adding that family members, friends and entire communities "make their own kinds of sacrifices" to support Soldiers in harm's way.

"My hope for each of you today," she said, "is that the lives of these women and the personal courage they possessed will encourage us, encourage each of us, to look deep inside ourselves, prepare ourselves, uparmor ourselves with personal courage that we will need to face whatever challenges are presented to us. May we not miss the moment when we have the opportunity to make a difference in someone else's life, or perhaps even greater, that moment in history when we may have the chance to spark the fires of change for America and for our world."



**Lonnie Dixon performs a medley of inspirational songs during the Women's History Month luncheon.**